The Railway Train

I like to see it lap the miles, And lick the valleys up, And stop to feed itself at tanks; And then, prodigious¹, step

Around a pile of mountains, And, supercilious², peer In shanties, by the sides of roads; And then a quarry pare

To fit its sides, and crawl between, Complaining all the while In horrid, hooting stanza; Then chase itself down hill

And neigh like Boanerges³; Then, punctual as a star, Stop—docile⁴ and omnipotent⁵--At its own stable door.

Symbolism

An object, person, or place that has meaning within itself, but stands for something else in the context of the story

___ Imagery

When the descriptive language used enables the reader to imagine the image clearly

Language
Assonance,
Alliteration. Similes

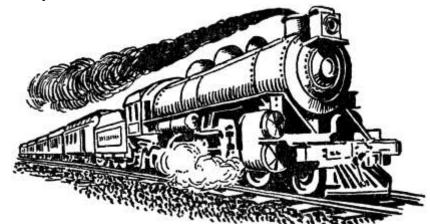
Metaphors,
Personification,
Hyperbole, Puns,
Idioms, Repetition,
Rhyme, &
Onomatopoeia

Tone & Theme

Tone is the quality of something (an act or a piece of writing) that reveals the attitudes and presuppositions of the author.

Theme is the unifying idea that is a recurrent element.

Emily Dickinson



- 1. prodigious: impressively great in extent, size, or degree.
- 2. supercilious: behaving in such a manner that shows that one thinks he/she is better than everyone else
- 3. Boanerges: Name given by Jesus to two of his disciples- James & John to indicate that they were *Sons of Thunder* (often used to refer to a great preacher or public speaker)
- 4. docile: easily controlled; submissive
- 5. omnipotent: able to do anything; unlimited power